

National Agricultural Summary

August 7 - 13, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Hot, dry weather accelerated crop development in the Great Plains and adjacent areas of the western Corn Belt most of the week, but conditions deteriorated due to increased moisture shortages. Excessive heat also stressed crops in the lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast. Heavy rainfall temporarily relieved moisture shortages along coastal areas

of the Mississippi Delta and isolated parts of the interior Southeast, but severe moisture deficits remain in most areas. The dry weather aided small grain harvest in the Great Plains, while rain interfered with progress in parts of the Corn Belt. Seasonably cool weather limited crop development along parts of the Pacific Coast.

Corn: Sixty-three percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage and 25 percent was dented. Development remained ahead of last year's early pace and more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average due to above-normal temperatures in the Great Plains and across most of the Corn Belt. Last year, 58 percent was at or beyond the dough stage and 18 percent was dented. Normally by this date, 41 percent would be at or beyond the dough stage and 11 percent dented. Fields rapidly entered the dough stage in the Great Plains, advancing 38 and 37 percent in Nebraska and North Dakota, respectively. In Ohio, 30 percent of the crop entered the dough stage. Twenty-five percent entered the dough stage, and 35 percent progressed to the dent stage in Kentucky. Development lagged behind normal in Michigan and Wisconsin. Conditions deteriorated in parts of the western Corn Belt and Great Plains due to increasing moisture shortages, while adequate moisture supplies aided development near the Great Lakes and in Pennsylvania. Rain boosted topsoil moisture and crop conditions in Missouri and Indiana. Conditions were virtually unchanged in Illinois and Ohio.

Soybeans: Ninety-six percent of the crop was blooming, slightly ahead of last year and 1 week ahead of the 91-percent average for this date. In North Carolina, 21 percent of the crop entered the bloom stage during the week. Fields rapidly entered the bloom stage in the lower Mississippi Valley, advancing 11 and 16 percentage points in Arkansas and Tennessee, respectively. Blooming advanced 10 percentage points in Michigan, but progress remained behind normal. Eighty-two percent of the acreage was setting pods, 6 percentage points ahead of last year's pace and more than 1 week ahead of the 66-percent normal for this date. More than one-fifth of the acreage began setting pods in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Tennessee during the week. Pod setting advanced 19 percentage points in Nebraska and North Dakota. Moisture shortages and excessive heat stressed fields in the Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and parts of the western Corn Belt. Moisture supplies were adequate to sustain crop development in the central and eastern Corn Belt.

Cotton: Acreage setting bolls advanced to 92 percent, while bolls were opening on 12 percent of the crop. Development through both stages was equal to last year and nearly equal to the 5-year average. Hot weather accelerated development in Texas, where 10 percent of the crop began setting bolls during the week. Above-normal temperatures also aided progress in Virginia, as acreage setting bolls advanced 17 percentage

points. Fields quickly ripened in the lower Mississippi Valley and Southwest due to hot weather. In Louisiana, bolls began opening on nearly one-fourth of the acreage during the week. Conditions deteriorated due to moisture shortages and excessive heat, especially in Alabama, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. In North Carolina, ample moisture supplies aided development.

Small grains: The spring wheat crop was 50 percent harvested, about 1 week ahead of last year's 26-percent pace and the average of 25 percent. The barley crop was 49 percent harvested, far ahead of last year's 17 percent and more than 1 week ahead of the 22-percent average for this date. Hot, dry weather from the upper Mississippi Valley to the Pacific Northwest aided rapid harvest progress, but stressed late-ripening fields.

The oat harvest advanced to 74 percent complete, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 12 percentage points ahead of the average for this date. Dry weather aided rapid progress in the northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi Valley. Progress was also rapid in Wisconsin and Ohio, despite scattered rain delays.

Rice: Seventy-six percent of the crop was headed, slightly behind last year, but equal to the average for this date. In California, one-fourth of the acreage entered the heading stage during the week, despite below-normal temperatures. Hot weather stimulated development in the lower Mississippi Valley, especially in Arkansas, where 16 percent headed during the week. Thirteen percent was harvested, behind last year's 14-percent pace, but ahead of the 9-percent normal progress. Dry weather aided rapid progress in Texas.

Other crops: Eighty-four percent of the sorghum acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, ahead of last year's 76-percent progress, and 1 week ahead of the average for this date. Hot weather stimulated rapid progress in the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Forty-three percent of the crop was turning color, more than 1 week ahead of last year and the average which were 30 and 31 percent, respectively. Fields rapidly matured in the lower Mississippi Valley and parts of the Great Plains. Conditions deteriorated in the Great Plains due to moisture shortages and excessive heat. Ninety-five percent of the peanut acreage was pegging, slightly behind last year's pace. In Alabama, light rains softened soils and allowed rapid pegging.